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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM: []

DO/SR, Rm 554, 1717 "H" St.

EXTENSION

3092

NO.

DATE

18 Sept 63

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

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OFFICER'S
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COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1
SR/CA/E

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2

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007FORM
3-62

610

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18 September 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, SR/CI
INFO : Chief, SR/OSR
SUBJECT : [] Trip to the USSR

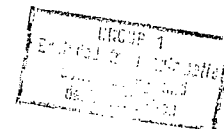
The following material is sent to you for your information and files. If there are any questions concerning this information, or if there is any wish to acquire additional details, please contact [] DO/SR, Rm 554, 1717 "H" St., extension 3092.

[]
Chief, DO/SR

Attachments

Distribution :
2 - Addressee
1 - SR/OSR
~~1 - SR/CA/E~~

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SUBJECT : Individuals of Possible CE and
Security Significance

SOURCE : []

DOI : August 1963

1. "Apart from the very heavy harassments we endured during our visit, there were a number of individuals whom we met who appeared fairly unusual and of possible CE significance. Myron KURAPASH, one of the members of our group and the individual who was arrested in L'vov, made contacts with a number of students and young people during the tour and will probably be able to give additional information on this topic. The suspicious individuals whom I recall are :

a. fnu LNU

He was first met at the Shemish, Poland, railroad border and transfer point where I first saw him standing beside our Soviet train as if waiting for us to arrive. He was fat and pompous appearing, smoked a cigar, had a stick pin in his tie and was most curious as to our activity. He asked many questions about our travel plans, attempts to contact relatives in the suburbs and the like. He admitted that he would be traveling without permission to the suburbs and I advised him not to do so. He appeared to be most interested in the Ukrainian-American political leader, KURAPASH. This individual indicated he had been born in the Ukraine and now resided in Canada, in the city of Edmonton, where he owned and operated a men's store. He had stopped off in London en route to the Ukraine. He gave me his card which I am unable to locate at the moment. He spoke excellent English and Ukrainian. He appeared to be acquainted with Rev. HONKEVICH of Second Avenue, New York, who recently was ordained a priest in Rome. HONKEVICH had been married, has a son, and formerly operated the Roman Parcel Service in New York City. I feel his wife's uncle was a Communist in the Ukraine.

I later met this Canadian in our hotel in L'vov, Hotel Ukraine, where he was most friendly and charming to our Inturist guides. He complained that he was unable to continue on his trip since his luggage had become lost. He still hoped to visit the village where his relatives resided. He had received permission to remain in the

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L'vov area for seven days, although the maximum length of visit is usually only four days. He explained this by saying he must be lucky. He was in L'vov the entire four days we were there. On one of the days, he openly (and for no apparent reason) joined our tour bus and visited the L'vov District Hospital and the L'vov cemetery with us. During the bus ride he again cultivated Mr. KURAPASH. He told Mr. KURAPASH that he was married and had two sons. The Canadian noted me sitting in the rear of the bus making notations in my book and immediately came to sit down beside me in an obvious attempt to read what I had written.

b. Mikola Ivanovich HASAJ

This young man of about 35 years of age was noted during our visit to the cemetery in L'vov where he was calmly painting a picture of the memorial of Ivan FORNOV. We merely exchanged a few words concerning the difficulty in painting pictures while being disturbed by groups of tourists. However, as we were leaving the cemetery, he ran up to me and asked to speak. He told me his name and that he was on vacation. He also indicated that he had a paternal uncle (NU) who lives in Fleishmann, New York, in the Catskill Mountains, where he runs a tourist hotel with his German-born wife. HASAJ was a writer and an artist by avocation. When I told him that his uncle had brought the uncle's mother from Poland to the United States, but that the mother had been unhappy and had returned to Poland, Mikola HASAJ said the mother must have been out of her mind not to stay in the United States. All during our chat, the Canadian (see paragraph 1-a) was watching us with interest.

The next day HASAJ again appeared, this time outside my hotel. He said I was the first American to whom he had ever spoken, and that he had some questions about American life which he wished to have answered. He said he was not afraid to talk to me since he had nothing to fear, even though he was married to a teacher and had a seven-year-old daughter. His lack of fear was based on the 'fact' that, since he had already spent seven years in jail for some of his writings, he no longer feared prison. He appeared openly on the street with me and asked all sorts of questions about the life of the Ukrainians in the United States, their social activities, their cultural life and the like. He seemed surprised when I told him that American printers and publishers would even print the works of Soviet authors.

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Sometime later, HASAJ came to my room and knocked on the door. He did not appear to be at all afraid and again said that there was no reason to fear. I gave him a pair of beads (costume jewelry) for his wife, several packages of 'Fizzies' for his daughter and even some extra black pepper which is in such demand. He found the packaging of the 'Fizzies' most unique and asked many questions about it. He explained the purpose of his visit as being to request me to take his painting of Taras SHEVCHENKO to his uncle in New York. He explained that the works of the old masters could not be exported, while the works of contemporary artists could be. I myself had been able to purchase and bring home some of the works of MONASTERSKI. I accepted the unframed canvas from HASAJ, and my only comment is that the oils had been applied in an unusually heavy and thick manner. I have not as yet delivered the painting and do not eliminate the possibility that there may be some hidden message under the oils on the canvas. That was the risk I ran. As HASAJ was leaving, I gave him a copy of the Russian language book which was printed in the United States entitled (in translation) 'The USA Answers'.

We met again the next day and HASAJ stated that both he and his wife had stayed up all night reading the book and had already passed it on to a friend. During the day, HASAJ took me around L'vov hunting for 13th Century frescoes which I could photograph. He told me that he lived at Prospekt Lenina No. 37, apartment 13. He also promised to send me at least one other MONASTERSKI picture when it was offered for sale. He spent the whole afternoon walking with me and took me right back to the hotel. He was dressed in a casual manner in a white sport shirt, with sleeves rolled up, and slacks. He made a clean appearance. When we parted he said 'cheri ruchy' or 'I kiss your hand', a most unusual phrase to use in present-day USSR.

On the last day, he brought his wife and child to the hotel. The wife was very attractive and admitted she was a teacher. She spoke no English. They thanked me for the gifts I had given them and we invited them to attend the hotel cabaret with us in the evening. They accepted but did not show up as promised. Mikola HASAJ later used the excuse that his wife had been delayed at the beauty parlor and had arrived home too late for the 2100 show.

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The whole story of HASAJ is unusual. I never learned what he is by profession, but I do know that he has artistic ability and is an excellent art critic. He also knows the history of art and the locations of ancient artistic treasures in L'vov. I plan to check with Mikola HASAJ's uncle to see what I can learn further concerning this matter.

c. fnu LNU and his wife

We were sitting at a table for 10 in the crowded cabaret of the Hotel Ukraine in L'vov when a young couple were shown to our table by the headwaiter. They spoke Ukrainian to one another and said they believed us to be Germans. I told them we were Americans and they could scarcely believe us. We tried to convince them by showing them our shoes and cigarettes, but they said that anyone with money could buy such American items in the USSR. When we showed them an amount of American money they finally believed us. Subject's wife was a Ukrainian from Czechoslovakia. Both were in their late 20's or early 30's. Subject was a machine operator in a tool factory and earned 80 rubles per month. They were both interested in the amount of buying power in a dollar and in learning why we felt life in the United States was better than in the USSR. Subject said he could not understand why, if things were as bad as reported in the United States, the USSR would have to catch up and pass the United States. When the couple departed we noted that a man who had been sitting nearby, and who wore a plaid shirt, also departed. It was apparent that Subject had become nervous during his talk at the table and we believed it was because he knew he would be questioned by the police concerning his talks with an American.

The next morning, as our bus was departing from L'vov, I noted the young wife who said she had come to the hotel to double-check to see if we really were Americans. She said that the man in the orange plaid shirt had tried to overtake them, but that they had been able to jump onto a bus and escape when he was greeted by some friends and took his eyes off the couple.

2. "I may be able to acquire additional information on these individuals if necessary."

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SUBJECT : Members of Tourist Group to USSR

SOURCE : []

DOI : August 1963.

1. "The following individuals traveled to the USSR with the Kowbasniuk group between 27 July and 18 August 1963 and had unusual attention paid to them by the Soviets :

- a. Mr. Fnu KURAPASH
Vice-president of the Ukrainian Nationalist Association who resides in Jersey City. He had formerly been a member of the Red Army, who had been captured by the Germans and was a POW until liberated by the United States Army. He has a brother in Shemish, Poland, whom he met. He had a vial of earth from SHEVCHENKO's grave which was confiscated in Moscow. Frequent attempts were made to intoxicate him.
- b. Myron KURAPASH
A schoolteacher from Chicago, who arrested when arrived by bus in Wynyky to visit relatives and said Wynyky is a suburb of L'vov. He made many contacts in each city with university youths and spent most of his time with them. Was given permission to photograph from a train with movie camera, and had all film confiscated in Moscow — 21 reels of 8 mm film — and signed 'something'. (NOTE : It will be interesting to see if the Soviets attempt to use the movie film as evidence of his bad faith and espionage activity.)
- c. Mary POPOVICH
Visited USSR in 1961 and wrote very critically upon return. Given tour conductor's ticket by Source since she had no funds. She was followed by car at night from home of her relatives to the hotel in L'vov. Each page in her book examined by customs upon exit; received phone calls in night and no one on the line. She frequently photographed and surveilled.

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- d. Ann TRUSZ (or TRUSH)
Lives in Cleveland; almost arrested in L'vov
for taking pictures of farmers' market;
frightened by man in Khar'kov park. She
received phone calls in the night and no one
on line.
- e. Fnu TRUSZ (or TRUSH)
Sister of Ann and also lives in Cleveland.
She also frightened by man in Khar'kov park.
- f. Fnu NOVAK
Female; frightened by man in Khar'kov park.
- g. Louise KNOWLES
Made contacts with American press people
in Moscow; friendly with Myron KURAPASH.
She employed by American Airlines in New York
City. She had all her still and movie films
confiscated in Moscow except roll which
remained in her camera.

2. "Additional information can be obtained concerning
these individuals if it is required."

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SUBJECT : Inturist Officers in USSR

SOURCE : []

DOI : August 1963

1. "I recall the following Inturist guides and officers from the USSR :

- a. Irina TSARYK
DPOB circa 1931, probably in Kiev.
Resides in Kiev and does Kiev tour work;
was with our group for the entire 23 days.
Single; employed on a full time basis as
a guide; had attended a university in
Khar'kov. Resides with her brother;
speaks excellent English, and very good
friend of the Inturist chief in Khar'kov,
Mikola LNU.
- b. Tanya LNU
Born circa 1943, resides in L'vov.
Was L'vov tour guide (very poor guide since
this was her first season); speaks fluent
Ukrainian but her English is not too fluent.
- c. Alexandra Alexandrovna LNU
Born circa 1922
Head of the L'vov Inturist office since 1959;
ethnic Russian, now speaks Ukrainian very
well and speaks English too.
- d. Boris Vladimirovich KRASINNIKOV
Russian; Chief of the Chernovtsy Inturist
Office.
- e. Larissa LNU
Ethnic Great Russian who moved to Ukraine at
age of three or four with her grandmother;
a very fine and pleasant guide.
Resident of Chernovtsy and graduated from
Chernovtsy University. Speaks beautiful
English and Ukrainian; denied knowing the
name of the former Catholic cathedral which
had been turned into a museum for the writer
Olga KALBALAUSKA. She said that, although
German had been the language of instruction

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at the University until 1920, Rumanian until 1940 and Ukrainian to the present, Russian may be the language of the future. She provided a guide book of Chernovtsy even though not on sale.

- f. Fnu YURICHENKO
Chief of the Odessa Inturist Office; was very angry and denounced American-Ukrainians for their anti-Soviet propaganda and misquotations, articles of Mary BECK in the Detroit press, etc.
- g. Fnu LNU
Russian who spoke no Ukrainian; had to be replaced when tour group refused to use her in Odessa.
- h. Fnu LNU
Ukrainian speaker; very strict guide in Odessa; had long braid of hair running down her back to hem of her dress.
- i. Mikola LNU
Chief of Inturist in Khar'kov and also local guide.
- j. Fnu LNU
City guide for Inturist in Moscow; ethnic Russian; poor guide and not liked by group.

2. "I may be able to provide more details concerning these individuals if it is required."

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SUBJECT : Hotels in USSR

SOURCE : []

DOI : August 1963

1. "We stayed in the following hotels during our visit to the USSR :

L'vov	Hotel Ukraine
Chernovtsy	Hotel Kiev
Kiev	Hotel Moscow (Hotel Ukraine being repaired)
Odessa	Hotel Ukraine (former Hotel London)
Khar'kov	Hotel Ukraine
Moscow	Hotel Ukraine

2. "I can provide details concerning these hotels if it is required."

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